

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- A3
1. (Currently amended): A method for managing data self-defining data elements comprising:
 - providing a data element that includes metadata within said data element;
 - associating a data element with metadata;
 - storing data management information in the metadata, said data management information for managing said data element;
 - storing, within said data element, providing one or more anchor points to beginselected analysis processes; and
 - storing data management rules and processing rules in the metadata.
 2. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the management information comprises a time stamp.
 3. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the management information comprises a management rule.
 4. (Original): The method of claim 3, wherein the management rule comprises one of performance criteria, reliability criteria, availability criteria, and capacity criteria.
 5. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the management information comprises a pointer to a management rule.
 6. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the management information comprises a sequencing rule.
 7. (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein the sequencing rule comprises one of a logical rule, a time rule, and a structure rule.

- A3
8. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the management information comprises a pointer to a sequencing rule.
 9. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the management information comprises a management function for accomplishing management rules.
 10. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein associating is accomplished by physically storing the metadata with the data.
 11. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein associating is accomplished by storing a pointer with the data that allows one to locate the metadata.
 12. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein anchor points are pointers to the current location the metadata for selected data elements.
 13. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein anchor points are copies of the metadata for selected data elements.
 14. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein processing rules define the order of selecting data elements for processing.
 15. (Original): The method of 1, wherein processing rules define controls for processing management information for each data element.
 16. (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein the processing controls include sequential processing in priority order.
 17. (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein the processing controls include indexed processing following specific tree structures first.

- A3
18. (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein the processing controls include parallel processing.
19. (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein parallel processing includes a separate instance of processing for each data element found processed simultaneously.
20. (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein parallel processing includes a separate instance of processing for each data element found processed concurrently.
21. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein management information comprises a pointer to the location where rules are stored.
22. (Original): A self-defining data element for enhanced data management and recovery, comprising:
a data portion; and
a metadata portion,
wherein the metadata includes management information including management rules and processing rules and one or more anchor points to begin selected analysis processes.
23. (Original): The self-defining data element of claim 22, wherein the management information comprises a time stamp.
- X 24. (Original): The self-defining data element of claim 22, wherein the management information comprises a management rule.
25. (Original): The self-defining data element of claim 24, wherein the management rule comprises one of performance criteria, reliability criteria, availability criteria, and capacity criteria.

- A3
26. (Original): The self-defining data element of claim 22, wherein the management information comprises a pointer to a management rule.
27. (Original): The self-defining data element of claim 22, wherein the management information comprises a sequencing rule.
28. (Original): The self-defining data element of claim 27, wherein the sequencing rule comprises one of a logical rule, a time rule, and a structure rule.
29. (Original): The self-defining data element of claim 22, wherein the management information comprises a pointer to a sequencing rule.
30. (Original): The self-defining data element of claim 22, wherein the management information comprises a management function for accomplishing management rules.